

Left to right: Rebecca Margolis (University of Ottawa, session chair), Michaela Raggam-Blesch (Austrian Academy of Science), Alison Rose (University of Rhode Island, Providence), Howard Lupovitch (Colby College, Maine)

osophy at the fin de siècle based on the example of Anna Pammrová. The panels that followed examined fin-desiècle women writers from Austria and Hungary and themes in their narratives such as ethnic and sexual tension, on the one hand, and the city, on the other. Modernity in the arts exemplified by Klimt, Czech cubism and Hungarian entertainment films of the 1930s was the topic of the last panel that morning. The afternoon was devoted to discussions about the literary legacy of Viennese modernity on the examples of Musil and modernism in Trieste. Csokor's Idee Europa and the impact of Viennese misogyny on Czech poetry. The debates around Empress Elizabeth in Trieste and her re-emerging cult in Hungary today along with the presentation of Austria-Hungary at the 1893 Chicago Columbian Exhibition raised questions about representations of the Imperial past.

The third and last day was devoted to the memories and legacies of the Empire in women's narratives, both in fiction (in Romanian-German literature) and through oral testimonies (in the post-Trianon Hungarian diaspora) while also reflecting on anti-modernist tendencies leading up to women's involvement in the pro-fascist Arrow Cross party in World War II Hungary. The last panel looked at legacies of violence through civilian internment in World War I and the impact of gender and ethnic stereotypes in drawing the Austro-Yugoslav border following World War II. A round-table discussion led in a convivial atmosphere concluded a what was generally felt to be a successful conference.

The conference was accompanied by several exciting social events. On the first evening, a reception was held at the Sheraton Ottawa Hotel. Among the guests were Her Excellency Elena Ștefoi, Ambassador of Romania, Mag. Peter Storer, Director of the Austrian Cultural Forum, Dr. George Lang, Dean of Arts, and Dr. Geneviève Mareschal, Vice-Dean Academic, University of Ottawa. The reception was followed by a reading by Romanian-born German author Carmen Francesca Banciu. The author read an excerpt, in English translation, from her novel in progress, Blütenstaub und Diamanten. The novel is set partly in turn-of the-century Vienna and partly in contemporary Berlin. On the second evening, advanced students from the School of Music presented a concert of fin-de-siècle music by Brahms, Kodály, Mahler, Richard Strauss and Schönberg, an event that added a fine musical touch to the intellectual debates at the conference.

Agatha Schwarz University of Ottawa



2008

Marina Kovrig supports Post-Doctoral Fellowship

THE position of Post-Doctoral Fellow and Assistant Director of the Wirth Institute for Austrian and Central European Studies at the University of Alberta has found a new sponsor. After being in abeyance for two years, the Wirth Institute was once again able to engage a talented young scholar of Austrian and Habsburg history for the 2008-2009 academic year, thanks to Ms. Marina Kovrig.



Marina Kovrig is a senior manager and executive, with a focus on government relations, public relations and sustainable development, in a Canadian-owned, privately held multinational chemical manufacturing company who is currently phasing into retirement and looking for new outlets for her energy. With twenty years of experience in lobbying, multi-stakeholder consultations and voluntary industry initiatives, Ms. Kovrig has built a reputation within her industry and in many government departments for integrity, dedication and deep commitment to the consultative process for dealing with sensitive issues.

As the first woman to be elected chair of the Canadian Consumer

Specialty Products Association and the first woman on the board of the Canadian Chemical Producers Association, Ms. Kovrig's career demonstrates an ability to work graciously and win respect in difficult environments, while being frankly outspoken and passionate about defending just causes. In addition, she has earned a reputation as a pillar of civil society through her volunteer work. The chemical sector has seen her working with Provincial. Federal and NGO groups to deal with issues as broad as household special waste management, smog reduction, designing senior-friendly packaging, and establishing liaisons with colleges and universities to enable workers to continuously upgrade gualifications. In other voluntary capacities she has been a Director on the Board of CAMH and an active member of the Corporate Leaders Committee, is a member of the Shaw Festival Governor's Circle. an active member of the AGO Curators Circle and the Textile Museum Patron's Circle.

Above all, however, Ms. Kovrig is committed to her Central European heritage, and to the maintenance of Canada's bridges to that part of the world. Born in Prague, but equally at home in Austria, she sees the Wirth Institute as the best institution to preserve this legacy and to transmit her cosmopolitan Central European vision to future generations of students. Ms. Kovrig has a broad interest in culture and learning, and is intimately familiar with the academic environment. She has been especially impressed by the Wirth Institute's dual mission to act as both an academic and a cultural institute, and by its commitment to raise the profile of Central Europe in both areas, not only locally but also nationally. Ms. Kovrig is also author

of many articles on management, gardening and life, the mother of two children and is currently working on drafts of two books.

The scholar that the "Marina Kovrig Post-Doctoral Fellowship" supports in the 2008-2009 academic year is Dr. Michael Chisholm. After studying at Carleton University and the University of Toronto, Dr. Chisholm completed his studies at Oxford University



under the renowned Robert Evans, with a dissertation on the Habsburg Counter-Reformation in Tyrol. Specializing in 16th century Austrian history, Dr. Chisholm is currently assisting the Institute in the organization of an international conference on the famous Habsburg emperor Maximilian I. The conference is scheduled to take place at the University of Alberta on October 2-3, 2009. In addition, Dr. Chisholm participates actively in the activities of the Institute and lectures widely on Early Modern Habsburg history. He is the translator of Joseph Riedmann's Short History of Tyrol, and is currently completing a major book on the Tyrolean Counter-Reformation. Franz A.J. Szabo

ACC Dissertation Prize awarded to musicologist

HE 2008 Austrian-Canadian Council Dissertation Prize was awarded this year to a musicologist for the first time in its history. ACC dissertation prizes are awarded on the recommendation of an interdisciplinary selection committee appointed by the Wirth Institute for Austrian and Central European Studies at the University of Alberta, and are valued at \$1,000. A special certificate issued by the ACC accompanies the monetary award. The ACC's prize for best Ph.D. dissertation in Austrian Studies can in principle be awarded annually, but the Council will only hold a competition if a minimum of three dissertations is submitted. As a result, since its inception in 1996, the award has not been made annually, and the 2008 award was made on the basis of dissertations nominated in 2006 and 2007.

Winner of this year's award was Dr. John Henry Wiebe for his 2006 dissertation submitted at the University of Alberta for the degree of Doctor of Music, "Carl Czerny – Mass No. 2 in C Major: A Biedermeier Composer in Life and in Practice." The award was presented to Dr. Wiebe on the occasion of the Wirth Institute's 10th anniversary celebration on September 5, 2008, by Dr. Alfred G. Wirth, Honourary Chair of the ACC, and by Mr. John Raschke, Vice-President of the ACC.

In its report, the selection committee noted: "In his dissertation Dr. Wiebe examines the life of Carl Czerny as a performer, teacher and composer, focusing specifically on Czerny's contribution as a composer of church music, and placing these contributions within the cultural context of the Biedermeier era in Austria. The main body of the dissertation consists of a modern performance edition of Czerny's Mass No. 2 based on archival manuscripts held by the Gesellschaft der Musikfreunde in Vienna. This not only presents the work for the first time to modern audiences, but also provides an exposition of the work's uniqueness and strengths that will have the effect of bringing a neglected Austrian musical genius the prominence he deserves. It is a work of musical archaeology that has unearthed the tip of a yet to be excavated larger treasure." to light (especially at a 2002 Czerny Music Festival mounted by the Wirth Institute in cooperation with the Society of the Friends of Music of Vienna) have stunned and impressed music critics. But most of Czerny's output of what he considered "serious music" remains unpublished. This includes a variety of chamber music (among them a number of profound string quartets), six symphonies and a broad



Mr. John Raschke (left) and Dr. Alfred Wirth present the ACC Dissertation Prize to Dr. John Henry Wiebe (right)

Carl Czerny (1791-1857) was a protegé of Ludwig van Beethoven and the teacher of Franz Liszt, but until recently, was virtually absent from the canon of classical music. In one of the musical world's most intriguing stories, Czerny is being rediscovered as a major late Classical and early Romantic composer. Scholars and music lovers are listening intently to his work, and writing about his masterful compositions. Often thought to be merely a purveyor of pedagogical piano exercises and quite well-known as such among pianists, his vast output of serious work is little known. Occupying a pivotal niche in music history, some of his works that have recently come

range of sacred music. The later category includes 11 solemn masses for soloists, choir and orchestra, eight of which exist only in manuscript form in the archive of the *Gesellschaft der Musikfreunde* in Vienna. It is one of these manuscripts that forms the basis of Dr. Wiebe's dissertation.

Dr. Wiebe has agreed to produce parts from his performance edition of the Czerny Mass No. 2 so that the work may receive what may very well be a world premiere – and will certainly be a North American premiere – performance within the next 18 months. The public performance will take place in Edmonton and will be sponsored by the Wirth Institute. The Institute is currently negotiating a per-



formance agreement with a number of musical organizations in Edmonton. The date and location of the performance should be fixed within the next six months and will be published in the next issue of *Oe Culture*.

The ACC Dissertation Prize competition is open to all theses completed

at Canadian universities in fulfillment of the relevant graduate degrees, and accepted by the appropriate graduate faculty in the twelve months prior to the annual nomination deadline of October 31. All doctoral dissertations in the social sciences, humanities and fine arts which deal with any aspect of Austrian history, culture, society, economics, politics or literature are eligible. Past winners of the Prize have been Jürgen Heizmann, Brigitte Gerdes, Jill Scott, Alexandra Heberger, and Marc-Oliver Schuster.

Franz A.J. Szabo

Austrian Centres of the world meet in Canada

N June 2007 the Austrian Federal Ministry of Science and Research organized the first annual international convention of Austrian Centres of the world at the Centre for Austrian Studies of the University of Minnesota. To help celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Wirth Institute for Austrian and Central European Studies, the Ministry chose to convene the second annual meeting at the University of Alberta on September 7 and 8, 2008. The purpose of these annual meetings is to encourage closer cooperation among the Austrian Centres, and also to give an opportunity to graduate students at the respective institutions to present papers and to allow the next generation of young scholars in the field to get to know each other and to establish networks for their future careers.

The institutions that are represented at these meetings are, in addition to the Wirth Institute (Prof. Franz Szabo, Director), the Centre for Austrian Studies at the University of Minnesota (Prof. Gary Cohen, Director), Centre Austria at the University of New Orleans (Prof. Guenter Bischof, Director), the Center for Austrian Studies at the European Forum of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem (Prof. Bianca Kühnel, Director), the Institut für Osteuropäische Geschichte at the University of Vienna (Prof. Arnold Suppan, Head), and the Faculty of Central European Studies at the Andrássy University in Budapest (Prof. Dieter Binder, Dean). Thanks to the generosity of the Austrian Ministry, each institute can bring up to four graduate students to the annual meeting, and the papers presented by these students are subsequently published by the *Institut für Osteuropäische Geschichte* at the University of Vienna. embassy in Ottawa, Dr. Peter Storer, and the Director, Office of Science and Technology of the Austrian Embassy in Washington, D.C., Dr. Philipp Marxgut. Twelve student papers were presented at the meeting, but Prof. Bischof and his students from New Orleans were prevented from com-



Left to right: Peter Storer, Ulrike Csure, Florian Gerhardus, Franz Szabo, Philipp Marxgut and Christoph Ramoser

The Austrian Science Ministry itself is usually represented by its Head of the Department for International University Relations, Dr. Christoph Ramoser, and for the 2008 meeting in Edmonton, he was joined by Ministry officials, Ms. Ulrike Csura and Mr. Florian Gerhardus, as well as the Director of the Austrian Cultural Forum at the ing by the untimely descent of Hurricane Gustav on that city. In addition, Centre Directors presented reports of their respective institutions' activities over the past year, and Prof. Suppan presented the volume of published papers from the 2007 meeting.

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Oe culture -

MGV Kaning on tour through Western Canada

THE picturesque village of Kaning, the "Gate to the National Park Nockberge", is located north of Radenthein, Carinthia, at an altitude of 1,203 m. Unspoiled nature and an active community life characterize the village and its surroundings.

The *Männergesangsverein* (male choir) Kaning was founded in 1890 by a handful of men who loved to sing. For almost 120 years the choir has dedicated its efforts to maintaining traditional folk songs while also singing a variety of international songs. Under the guidance of choir director Burgi Leeb, the 30-member MGV rates among the very best choirs in the province of Carinthia, which is justly famous for its many choirs and its singing traditions. You can visit their website at http://www.kaning.at/ and listen to some of their music.

The choir's outfit pays tribute to the Nockberge: black pants, a loden jacket and a flower-adorned sleeveless jacket.

Two traditions distinguish the choir's work: maintaining close contacts with choirs around the world, but especially in Europe, and "working" in the community: weddings, village celebrations and religious events are the times when the choir participates in the life of the village and donates its time and talents. Activities such as hikes in the local mountains and tours keep the choir's communal spirit high. Most members meet frequently in their daily lives, helping each other when someone's roof needs to be redone, for instance; of course, when the hunting season starts many choir members take to the hills together.

The singers maintain the quality of their singing by taking classes to improve their voices; young singers joining the choir can point to the fact that their efforts are being rewarded by the high esteem in which the choir



is held, as it is a privilege to sing with the MGV Kaning.

The choir has participated in several television events, and in 2005 they themselves produced "Voices of the Mountains" – a high-quality DVD that showcases their songs as well as the fauna and flora of the mountains and the folk customs and traditions of the Nockberge.

This past summer the choir took its longest trip yet when they traveled to Western Canada, and at concerts in Calgary, Victoria and Vancouver they demonstrated their talent and repertoire to enthusiastic listeners.

Special program highlights included a visit to a Hutterite colony near Calgary (as the Hutterites' history is also closely linked with the province of Carinthia), horseback riding on a Native reserve in the Okanagan, and whale watching on the Pacific. Since the choir members are all avid outdoorsmen, they were thrilled to see several elk and bear from the Rocky Mountain roads – and the modern cities of Vancouver and Calgary left an enduring impression as well. This trip – for which all funds were raised by years of singing and selling the music – will surely be a lasting memory for the choir.

Gery Valtiner (born in Carinthia and living in Vancouver for 20 years) from Special Travel International in Vancouver organized the trip and guided the choir on this summer's tour. In return, Canadian choirs travel to Austria and pay return visits to the touring choirs. This exchange of culture is especially wonderful as the common bond – music – makes any trip all the more special!

Gery Valtiner

Find out more about some of these trips on www.sticanada.com. The first 20 persons to write or call at 1-800-665-0998, requesting a brochure, will receive a FREE copy of the DVD "Stimmen der Berge" by the MGV Kaning. You will get great pleasure from listening to it – songs, countryside and folk traditions at their very best. The DVD is formatted for the North American playback system.

Manfred Prokop

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U of A welcomes new Austrian guest professor and research fellow

AS part of the Austrian government's support for the Wirth Institute for Austrian and Central European Studies at the University of Alberta,



Irene Fussl

the Austrian Federal Ministry for Science and Research supports two important visiting positions: a visiting Austrian guest professor through the Austrian Academic Exchange Programme (ÖAD) for a period of three to five years, and an annual graduate student intern who receives a Doctoral Research Fellowship at the Institute.

2008 marked the end of the fiveyear term of the previous Austrian visiting professor, Dr. Clemens Ruthner,

Anniversary

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across a broad range of disciplines by sponsoring and organizing 18 major international symposia and conferences at the University of Alberta, as well as 11 others in cooperation with other universities and institutions in Canada and the United States. It has also undertaken commissioned research projects. Most conference proceedwho has now gone on to a teaching position at Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland, with the result that the Austrian Sciences Ministry launched a search for his replacement in 2007. The candidate selected by the University of Alberta was Dr. Irene Fussl.

A native of Graz and a graduate of the Universities of Vienna and Salzburg, Dr. Fussl specializes in Jewish-Austrian literature. After dealing with literary forms of coming to terms with the Nazi legacy in the work of Ilse Aichinger and Ruth Klüger, she wrote her Ph.D. thesis on the hermetic poems of Paul Celan. She has previously taught at the University of Salzburg and at Bowling Green State University in Ohio, and is now the guest of the University of Alberta's Department of Modern Languages and Cultural Studies, teaching a full range of German literature courses and strengthening that Department's already intense focus on Austrian literature (three other Germanists also work on Austrian themes there, making it Canada's leading centre for Austrian literature). Dr. Fussl also has a strong interest in music and is an accomplished violinist.

The winner of the Austrian Science Ministry's Doctoral Research Fellowship tenable at the Wirth Institute for the academic year 2008/2009 is Ms. Bernadette Allinger, a native of

ings and research projects have been or are being published. The Institute has also organized or helped organize some 70 public lectures by scholars in various disciplines, as well as a series of Round Table discussions at the University of Alberta. In addition to its academic activities, the Institute has also mounted a variety of cultural activities, frequently in cooperation with various community associations and Melk, Lower Austria, and a doctoral student in the Department of Sociology of the University of Vienna. Her doctoral dissertation research focus-

Oe CULTURE



Bernadette Allinger

es on international comparisons of the politics of work-life balance, with emphasis on Austria, Denmark and Canada. As an intern at the Wirth Institute, Ms. Alliger participates actively in the many activities of the Institute. She is also an amateur musician, and has joined Edmonton's Cosmopolitan Music Society and Wind Band as a clarinetist.

Franz A.J. Szabo

clubs and with other units on campus. These include concerts and recitals, theatrical performances, exhibitions and film festivals with an Austrian and Central European theme.

For a copy of a 76-page Anniversary booklet summarizing the history and activities of the Institute please contact the Institute at http://www.arts. ualberta.ca/wi/. *Franz A.J. Szabo*

Austrian scholars in Canada

N the winter term 2008, Carleton University's Centre for European Studies (CES) organized an international conference, "Transatlantic Relations and International Conflict Management". The conference took place at Carleton University on February 7-8, 2008. The initiative came from Professor David Long (Norman Paterson School of International Affairs) and Professor Franz Kernic (Centre for European Studies and University of Innsbruck). Three Austrian guest speakers participated in the conference: Professor Heinz Gärtner (Austrian Institute for International Affairs), Gunther Hauser (Austrian National Defence Academy) and Arnold Kammel (Austrian Institute for European Security Policy).

The conference brought together academics from Europe and Canada to consider the differences and similarities in academic approaches to and official policies of international conflict management on either side of the Atlantic. Panels focused on the use of force in conflict management, intelligence, and human security. The conference also examined different international approaches to conflict management and post-conflict reconstruction in Afghanistan, as well as the peace process in the Middle East. The conference concluded with a discussion of the prospects for transatlantic cooperation in managing conflicts around the world.

Austria's contribution to the academic discussion focused primarily on four areas of research: major trends in EU-Canada relations with respect to international peacekeeping and crisis management (Kernic); the use of force in today's world order and the European Union's new theoretical and practical approaches in its foreign, security and defence policies (Gärtner); new role and missions of NATO and EU in the emerging global security architecture (Hauser); and democracy, energy security and climate change as new challenges and prospects for future transatlantic cooperation (Kammel).

During their visit to Canada, all Austrian scholars were also invited to a reception held at the Austrian Ambassador's Residence in Ottawa.

The event was sponsored by the Centre for European Studies and made possible by major financial support from the European Commission and Carleton University, including the Centre for Security and Defence Studies. Both the Austrian Embassy and the Austrian-Canadian Council supported this event through a small travel grant. Other contributions and support came from the Austrian Institute for European Security Policy, the Austrian Ministry of Defence, the diplomatic mission of Poland in Canada, the Egmont Institute, and the Slovenian Research Foundation.

Before returning to Austria, Professors Franz Kernic, Gunther Hauser and Arnold Kammel also travelled to Kingston where a seminar was held at Queen's Centre for International Relations (QCIR) on February 13, 2008. Professor Charles Pentlend and Professor Christian Leuprecht welcomed the Austrian scholars. The topic of the seminar was "Global Conflict Management: The EU's New Military Missions", and both Hauser and Kammel gave short presentations, particularly focusing on Austria's experiences in new EU military operations in Africa. At the same time, arrangements were made to foster research cooperation between Austrian and Canadian scholars in the field of security studies in the future.

Franz Kernic

Austrian Centres

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Graduate student papers covered a broad range of topic, mostly focused on the history of Austria and the Habsburg Monarchy, with some papers on literature and philosophy and one on eighteenth-century opera. The topics included discussions of the role of women in the Slovak national revival of the 19th century (Nina Pavlovicova, Alberta), the properties of the Herbersteins in present-day Slovenia (Maja Tos, Vienna), the history of Austrian Brody in the 19th Century (Börries Kuzmany, Vienna), the so-called High Treason of the Prague Infantry Regiment 28 in 1915 (Richard C. Lein, Vienna), post-war Austrian-Slovak relations (David Schriffl, Vienna), Eastern European Authors Looking Westward (Eva Hudecova, Minnesota), 'Ossies' in post-socialist Berlin (Tatiana Matejskova, Minnesota), Survivor **Testimony on Theatrical Performance** in Theresienstadt (Lisa A. Peschel, Minnesota), Arminius in 18th-century 'opera seria' (Roger C. Skarsten, Minnesota), the Reconstruction of Jewish Communal Life in Central Europe (Susi Cohen, Jerusalem), Franz Werfel and the First Austrian Republic (Anat Varon, Jerusalem), and the relationship of Sigmund Freud and Sandor Ferenczi (Andras Sziklai, Jerusalem). The next annual meeting of Austrian Centres is scheduled to be held in Jerusalem in 2009.

Franz A.J. Szabo

Please inform us of a change of address, and please renew your membership in the ACC for 2009!



N July 2008, the famous Austrian choir *Kärntner Doppelsextett*, which had previously toured such places as China, Brazil and many European countries, came to eastern Canada for a ten-day visit. Heinrich Striessnig, the treasurer and spokesperson for the Carinthian ensemble, and Roland K. Pirker, President of the Austrian-Canadian Council, had organized the concert tour over a two-year period.

Under the leadership of its founding member and choir conductor, Dr. Margit Heissenberger, a musical genius in her own right, the choir connected to audiences wherever they sang, bringing on one standing ovation after another. The group's repertoire ranges from American, Brazilian, Slovenian, German, and Austrian folk songs to old and new songs from their homeland Carinthia. Their performances brought tears to many Austrian and non-Austrian listeners alike, making each concert a truly memorable experience.

On July 3, the Choir arrived at the Ottawa airport. They spent the second and third day sightseeing in the nation's capital with Roland Pirker and gave their first concert - organized by the Friends of Austria Ottawa – on July 5 at St. Peter's Lutheran Church. On July 6 they left Ottawa and drove to Montreal where they were met by Erich Kruschitz, who gave them a city tour through old Montreal. In the afternoon of that same day a picnic concert was held on the shores of the St. Lawrence River; it was organized by Pia Teichmann, Past President of the Austrian Society Montreal.

On July 8, Andy Mora, President of the Donau Schwaben Club in Scarborough, greeted the group in Toronto. He not only arranged to have them sing at his club, but also volunteered to become their tour guide, and showed them Toronto and the Niagara Falls. On July 10, the *Doppelsextett* was greeted by Kitchener's



Mayor, Carl Zehr, and a concert was arranged by Hans Kroisenbrunner senior at the Alpenclub.

On July 12, the Choir performed at the Donau Schwaben Club; in attendance were the Austrian Consul and Trade Commissioner, Dr. Karl Schmidt, and Christine Meyer, President of the Canadian Austrian Society Toronto. The final concert was held in Burlington at the Continental Austrian Club on July 13. There the ensemble was welcomed by President Arno Risse and hosted by Peter and Ursula Hoffman.

Oe CUITURE

The *Doppelsextett* left Canada with great memories and wonderful impressions of our new homeland, but also with mixed emotions. They were sorry to have to leave so many new friends behind! Within days of their departure, all of us who had assisted the group received personal thanks from them for helping them make their first Canada tour unforgettable.

On September 29, 2008 the Choir celebrated its 20th anniversary; for that occasion they produced a new CD, titled "Du berührst mi" ("You touch me"). For more information please see their website at www.kaerntenerdoppelsextett.com.

Roland K. Pirker



Ottawa, Parliament Hill (July 5, 2008). Left to right: Elisabeth Eichholzer, Manfred Heissenberger (secretary), Margit Petutschnig, Hubert Reiner, Mag. Claudia Fantur, Albert Striessnig, Gabrielle Fugger, Dr. Margit Heissenberger (founding member and conductor), Monika Regal, Heinrich Striessnig (treasurer), Annemarie Maierwieser (English host and speaker), Wolfgang Reimann, Karin Smretschnig, Heimo Lechner (president) and Sylvia Stöger. Photo: Roland K. Pirker - Rollframe